

I claim:

Claim 1

In a data entry system which includes a central accounting system, a plurality of user controlled data entry means and a communication system for connecting the data entry means to the central accounting system a method for generating, in response to a request from a user at a data entry means, a control screen for display at the data entry means including the steps:

storing in memory data for defining a control screen which includes  
at least one profile field which includes a plurality of parameters unique to the user,  
a field for indicating, when selected by the user, the need to create an additional profile field containing different parameters unique to the requesting user; and,  
generating and transmitting the generated control screen to the data entry means via the communication system.

Claim 2

The method set forth in claim 1 including the steps:

in response to a request from the user for an additional profile field, generating and transmitting a parameter entry input screen suitable for transmission over the communication network to the requesting user.

Claim 3

The method set forth in claim 2 including the steps:

in response to the receipt of a completed parameter entry input screen from the user updating the stored data defining the control screen associated with the user; and, generating a control screen using the updated stored data and transmitting the updated control screen over the communication system to the user located at the data entry means.

#### Claim 4

In a merchandise order entry system which includes a central accounting system, a plurality of user controlled order entry means and a communication system for connecting the user controlled order entry means to the central accounting system a method for generating, in response to a request from a user at an order entry means, a control screen for display at the order entry means including the steps: storing in memory data for defining a control screen which includes

at least one profile field which includes a plurality of parameters unique to the user, and

a field for indicating, when selected by the user, the need to create an additional profile field containing different parameters unique to the requesting user; and,

generating and transmitting the generated control screen to the order entry means via the communication system.

#### Claim 5

The method set forth in claim 4 including the steps:

in response to a request from the user for an additional profile field, generating and transmitting a parameter entry input screen suitable for transmission over the

communication network to the requesting user.

#### Claim 6

The method set forth in claim 5 including the steps:

in response to the receipt of a completed parameter entry input screen from the user updating the stored data defining the control screen associated with the user; and, generating a control screen using the updated stored data and transmitting the updated control screen over the communication system to the user located at the order entry means.

#### Claim 7

The method set forth in any one of claims 4-6 in which the said at least one profile field includes a plurality of user selectable sub-fields each of which when selected by the user defines a unique action.

#### Claim 8

The method set forth in claim 7 in which the user selectable sub-fields include a first sub-field for requesting an order entry, a second user selectable sub-field requesting an edit of the unique parameters and a third user selectable sub-field requesting deletion of the profile field.

#### Claim 9

The method set forth in claim 8 in which the unique parameters in the profile field include a credit card number sub-field, a ship to address sub-field and a bill to address sub-field.

### Claim 10

In a merchandise order entry system which includes a central accounting system, a plurality of user controlled order entry means and a communication system for connecting the user controlled order entry means to the central accounting system apparatus for generating, in response to a request from a user at an order entry means, a control screen for display at the order entry means including:

means for storing in memory data for defining a control screen which includes

- at least one profile field which includes a plurality of parameters unique to the user, and
- a field for indicating, when selected by the user, the need to create an additional profile field containing different parameters unique to the requesting user; and,

means response to a request from a user at an order entry means for accessing the stored data defining the control screen and generating and transmitting the generated control screen to the order entry means via the communication system.

### Claim 11

The apparatus set forth in claim 10 including:

means, in response to a request from the user for an additional profile field, for generating and transmitting a parameter entry input screen suitable for transmission over the communication network to the requesting user.

### Claim 12

The apparatus set forth in claim 11 including:

means in response to the receipt of a completed parameter entry input screen from

the user for updating the stored data defining the control screen associated with the user; and,

means for generating a control screen using the updated stored data and transmitting the updated control screen over the communication system to the user located at the order entry means.

#### Claim 13

The apparatus set forth in any one of claims 10-12 in which the said at least one profile field includes a plurality of user selectable sub-fields each of which when selected by the user defines a unique action.

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#### Claim 14

The apparatus set forth in claim 13 in which the user selectable sub-fields include a first sub-field for requesting an order entry, a second user selectable sub-field requesting an edit of the unique parameters and a third user selectable sub-field requesting deletion of the profile field.

#### Claim 15

The apparatus set forth in claim 14 in which the unique parameters in the profile field include a credit card number sub-field, a ship to address sub-field and a bill to address sub-field.

#### Claim 16

In a data entry system which includes a central accounting system, a plurality of user controlled data entry means and a communication system for connecting the

data entry means to the central accounting system an apparatus for generating, in response to a request from a user at a data entry means, a control screen for display at the data entry means including:

a memory;

means for storing in memory screen data for defining a control screen which includes

at least one profile field which includes a plurality of parameters unique to the user, and

a field for indicating, when selected by the user, the need to create an additional profile field containing different parameters unique to the requesting user; and,

means responsive a request from a user at a data entry means for accessing screen data associated with the requestor and generating and transmitting a control screen corresponding to the accessed screen data to the data entry means via the communication system.

### Claim 17

The apparatus set forth in claim 16 including:

means responsive to a request from the user for an additional profile field, for generating and transmitting a parameter entry input screen suitable for transmission over the communication network to the requesting user.

### Claim 18

The apparatus set forth in claim 17 including:

means responsive to the receipt of a completed parameter entry input screen from

the user for updating the stored data defining the control screen associated with the user; and,

means for generating a control screen using the updated stored data and transmitting the updated control screen over the communication system to the user located at the data entry means.